

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

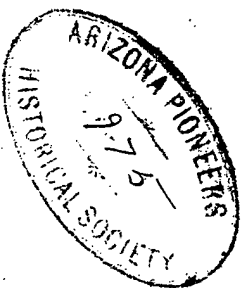
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR

THE YEAR 1887.



WASHINGTON:
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They also express a serious desire for more wagons, plows, and tools for building and other purposes, which should receive the favorable consideration of the Government.

The appropriations for this agency for the past two years have been entirely too small. Economy is a good thing when properly applied, but the strings can be so tightly drawn as to work an absolute injury to the object sought to be improved or obtained.

CONDUCT.

The conduct of the Indians upon the reservation is uniformly good. Occasional conflicts and disputes arise between the Navajos residing on the west side and the Moquis early settled by the agent.

The difficulties heretofore existing between the Indians and white settlers on the San Juan River are nearing a close. Agreeably to your instruction I have dispatched a competent representative to remove the few remaining whites from the reservation with the aid of the troops, provided they do not go peacefully. When this is done, the Indians will be restored to the full possession of these lands and the free use of the river for their stock.

EMPLOYEES.

The clerk, physician, blacksmith, and three farmers are all the employees furnished this agency. This number is insufficient to the necessary aid and support of the agent at so large a reservation. In addition, there should be a carpenter and wheelwright and a teamster. The blacksmith is now required to perform the duties of usual blacksmithing during the year, he has repaired thirty-two Indian wagons, many of which were badly broken down, and by filling anew over fifty wheels. The carpenter should be a man who could act as wheelwright; then such repairs could be more promptly done instead of accumulating at the shop, often requiring the Indians to wait for their wagons from one to three months.

MISSIONARIES.

There are as yet no missionary posts established among these Indians, save what the Mormons have attempted to do on the north and west sides. I believe some well directed work of this character by proper persons would be productive of much good.

SCHOOL.

The school has not made the progress in the past year that I had hoped for. By the continued and persistent efforts of the agent and the school employees only an average attendance of 43 could be secured; a slight increase since my last report. The progress, however, was somewhat retarded by the death of some of the pupils, which occurred during the winter and early spring. These children were grossly neglected in their sickness by the agency physician then in charge, either from culpable indifference as to his duties or absolute incompetency. This caused a feeling of distrust among the Indians as to the proper care of their children, and some went so far as to attempt to withdraw them from school. It also had the effect of preventing others that were promised from entering the school. It will require some time to fully restore the lost confidence. If this doctor had given half the attention to the duties pertaining to his office as was manifested in his mania, to stir up malicious mischief at the agency the interest of the service would have been better served. Another loss was occasioned by the expulsion of six boys and a girl for persistent disobedience to the rules and other misconduct. These pupils were too old to be brought under strict discipline, and for the good of the school it was thought best to let them go.

Without the introduction of industrial training I fear that the matter of education will make slow progress among these people. Navajos have a natural and strong aversion to what may be termed book education, but they readily take to the trades, and appreciate such instruction. This is worthy of the most serious consideration. The school having had no vacation last year, this year it was given some consideration. July to the first Monday in September. About half the pupils, including the girls, remained in the building, the others visited their parents and friends about the reservation.

* Another physician, Dr. Taulbee, has since been sent to the Navajo agency.

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The superintendent and matron have worked like Spartans to promote the general welfare of the school, and I hope, as a result of their continued labors another year, a more gratifying report may be shown.

POLICE.

The pay of the police is entirely too small. A prompt performance of their duties can not always be secured at the present rate of wages, which causes frequent em-barrassment to the agent. They should receive at least \$15 per month and rations, to enable them to devote their whole time to the service, as is required of a soldier.

In March last a serious but interesting question arose between the sheriff of Apache County, Ariz., and this agency, growing out of an attempt and threat to enter upon the reservation with an armed force of 100 men to arrest an Indian charged with a crime committed in the county, and supposed to be secreted in the Navajo Reserve, and claiming this right under the "Indian crimes act" of March 3, 1885 (Stat. 23, p. 385). I denied the sheriff the right to invade the reservation in the manner proposed on two grounds: One, that the act gave him no jurisdiction; the other, that it would be an unwise proceeding at that time, owing to the passion and excitement existing between the whites and Indians, resulting from the late shooting affray near Honk's Tank, and the wholesale stealing of Indian horses, of which mention is made in this report. I was afterwards gratified to learn that my decision in the matter was in accordance with the construction of the law as mentioned in your letter of May 27, 1887. The act referred to should be made more definite as to its meaning, or serious and complicated troubles may yet arise from it.

AGENCY BUILDINGS AND REPAIRS.

The delay in receiving the material intended for the construction and repairs of agency buildings gave but a short time before the close of the fiscal year to accomplish much of the work intended by the estimate. A neat building, however, of three rooms, was constructed, at a cost of \$600, which is now occupied by the agency physician and his family. The construction and repairs of other buildings mentioned in the estimate will be proceeded with as early as practicable.

IN CONCLUSION.

In closing this report I again beg leave to call your earnest attention to the matters and things mentioned in this report as required by them for their better support and advancement. There should be at least \$10,000 appropriated for the purchase of wagons, plows, and tools, and above all a portable saw-mill should be furnished without delay, and the school strengthened by practical instruction in the trades.

The annual statistics accompany this report.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. S. PATTERSON,
U. S. Indian Agent.

THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

NAVAJO AGENCY, NEW MEXICO,
August 24, 1887.

SIR: I have the honor to submit my second annual report concerning the Moqui Pueblo Indians of this agency.

CONDUCT.

The conduct of these Indians during the past year was uniformly good. Among themselves absolute peace and harmony reigns. About the only difficulties they encounter come from their Navajo neighbors, who sometimes annoy them by riding or driving off their stock and by stealing their melons and peaches. Several rather serious cases of this character occurred this summer, which caused the presence of the agent to adjust and settle.

STOCK.

They own:

Horses	750
Burros	15,000
Sheep	20,000
Goats	1,500
Cattle (one-third cows)	300

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They cultivate 6,000 acres of land, of which 4,000 is planted in corn. Owing to the dry season their crops are light this year. The estimated yield of their products of the soil is:

Corn	..... bushels..	40,000
Wheat	..... do.....	100
Melons	..... do.....	20,000
Pumpkins	..... do.....	5,000
Squash	..... do.....	8,000
Peaches	..... bushels..	3,000

Their wool clip was 20,000 pounds. Of this they sold 10,000 pounds, at an average of 8 cents per pound. The remainder is fabricated into wearing apparel and blankets for their personal use.

HOUSES.

I stated in my last report that certain families had expressed a desire to come down from their rock-bound villages and build comfortable stone houses on the plain, provided they could be assisted by way of lumber and hardware material, they to haul it from the railroad and perform the labor. Five hundred dollars' worth of such materials were purchased last June, under authority of the Department, being sufficient for the erection of six good stone houses. I am now pleased to report that three of the houses are being built, with a fair prospect that the others will soon be commenced. Several other Indians express a desire to follow their example.

ISSUE OF ANNUITY GOODS.

Last spring I made a general issue of their annuity supplies for 1886. About 1,000, including some women and children, were present. Although the supply was small they were apparently well pleased with what they got. The wagons, stoves, plows, and such articles were placed into the hands of the most worthy and deserving. When the supply is insufficient to give something to each one, instead of making a distribution at once I think it best to give out articles from time to time as they are needed. By this means the actual wants of each will be better ascertained and supplied. The next issue will be made in this way.

NO GOVERNMENT BUILDING.

The Government has no buildings of any kind for the storage and safe-keeping of the annual supplies and other property of this tribe requiring care and preservation. A few years ago there were several substantial agency buildings for the Moquis situated at Kean's Cañon, but by some unwise purpose they have disappeared entirely, and Mr. Kean is now erecting a new traders' store on one of the old foundations; even the additional farmer stationed there has nowhere to lay his head. A proper building should be constructed for these uses.

SCHOOL.

The prospect is still favorable to a liberal support of the school, and no time should be lost in opening it. The Moquis are more inclined to yield to persuasion of this character than the Navajos; even the Orba chief, whose people until recently despised the face of a white man, told me the other day that he would send two of his own children to the school, and would secure the attendance of several others from his village. These are good signs, looking to the improvement of this benighted people.

CENSUS.

The census shows a slight increase over last year; 93 births and 38 deaths are reported: Males under eighteen years..... 722
Females over fourteen years..... 717
School children between six and sixteen years..... 521
Total population of all ages..... 2,206

The above enumeration is not strictly accurate, owing to the limited facilities at hand for taking a correct census.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

S. S. PATTERSON,
U. S. Indian Agent.

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PUEBLO AGENCY, August 25, 1887.

Sir: In compliance with instructions from your office I have the honor to submit herewith my first annual report of affairs at this agency.

I assumed charge September 13, 1886, and as soon as practicable thereafter I visited the various pueblos (19 in all) under the supervision of this agency. They are situated (in respect to agency) as follows: The nearest, Tesuque, 9 miles; the farthest, Zuni, 285 miles, near Arizona line.

The total population, which I think is very nearly correct, having been taken with great care, is 8,337; number males above eighteen years, 2,279; females above fourteen, 2,347; school children between six and sixteen years, 2,101.

Nearly all of these Indians depend upon agricultural products for their subsistence, receiving no rations from Government. With the products of their fields and their flocks of sheep and small herds of cattle they support themselves. Considering their means of cultivating their lands it is a matter of surprise that the result is so favorable. Their agricultural tools (saying a very few with which the Government has from time to time furnished them) are of the crudest kind, consisting of forced sticks for plows, the ancient sickle for harvesting, and the sheep and goat for thrashing. They very readily and sensibly use the finer tools that have been issued to them and are eager for more.

Their dependence is upon irrigation, and for most part their ditches, or acequias, are inadequate to irrigate sufficient amount of land. At many of the pueblos the water supply is entirely inadequate, notably is this the case at Zuni. Situated in a country with scarcely any water and a population of about 1,500, it is a matter of surprise that they live at all. This year (having visited the pueblo recently) the river or creek upon which the pueblo is situated, I found the bed of same dry, and the entire population dependent for water upon three wells. I think that a small outlay of \$75 would greatly benefit them in purchasing pumps for these wells.

All of these Indians raise corn, wheat, onions, beans, pease, grapes, and pumpkins. The Pueblos on Rio Grande raise a considerable amount of grapes. Most of the Pueblos have flocks of sheep, goats, horses. Some have small herds of cattle. A tabular statement of the products and number of stock owned are herewith submitted.

LANDS.

These Indians hold their lands by grants from Spain dating back several hundred years. At the time the grants were issued a very loose system prevailed; the description and boundaries are very indefinite, calling for certain mesas and arroyos. The face of the country is very much the same, and one mesa and one arroyo does not differ from another, hence, there having been no survey nor no well-marked boundaries established, it is a matter of impossibility to locate the boundaries of these grants. The same is true where additional land has been set apart as reservations; hence there has been and is now a continual contention between the Indians and would-be settlers. I have had to encounter these difficulties in reference to nearly every pueblo. Many parties are now on lands claimed by Indians. Some have been on land for years, others more recent. Several suits are now pending in the Territorial courts. It has been utterly impossible for me to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion as to these disputes. The only possible remedy that I see is to have the lands surveyed and monuments erected defining their boundaries. In some instances these disputes have nearly resulted in collisions between the Indians and settlers.

CIVILIZATION.

I think progress is being made toward civilizing these Indians. They are ready to adopt the ways and habits of the white man, readily adopt the dress, when furnished, and are eager to do so, many that are able procuring the clothing themselves, but the great majority are too poor. They are eager for improved tools.

I am of the opinion that all former estimates of the crops raised by them, of corn and wheat especially, are entirely erroneous, &c., the amount stated; taking the population at the lowest, 7,000, and the amount of grain stated to have been raised would be wholly insufficient for their support. I submit an estimate based upon observation and such facts as I could possibly gather during the year of the amount of cereals, vegetables, and fruits raised, which I do not think at all overestimates the amount.

SCHOOLS.

There are two Government day-schools supported entirely by Government, that is, the pay of teachers; one at Acoma and the other at San Felipe Pueblo. The Acoma school has had but small attendance, the teacher alleging as a reason the want of a suitable house. The San Felipe school has done fairly well, the teacher having nearly as many as he can well attend to, the pupils having made fair progress, and I think the